

## Concerning Purity...

Attached is some information regarding a Purity Covenant that we at Crossroads feel is beneficial to you at this stage of your life.

If you are being married at Crossroads Community Church or by a Crossroads' pastor, your officiating pastor will be talking with you about this, as this is something that is expected of you if you are considering a Biblical marriage.

If you are NOT in the category listed above, this information is something we encourage you to read and carefully consider. Much of what the Bible teaches us goes against the grain of the expected ... "love your neighbors, bless those that curse you", "it is better to give than receive", "forgive your enemies 70 x 7." With the issue of sexuality, God's standards also go against the grain of today's society. He asks us to give ourselves sexually only after we have made the commitment of marriage, and then to remain faithful to that individual for the rest of our lives.

We encourage each of you to remain or reinstate your sexual purity between now and your marriage with the signing of a marriage covenant. This step honors your mate, your marriage, your future children as well as the God who made the covenant of marriage possible.

Rest assured, your participation in our premarital process will not be affected by your decision here, but it may impact the marrying pastor's willingness to perform the ceremony.

God's Word says:

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you."

**Ephesians 5:3** "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."

**Hebrews 13:4** “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20** “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.”

God’s desire for your pre-married purity is for your protection, both physically and emotionally. By living by God’s guidelines in this area:

- You please God as you experience the blessings of obedience
  - You build trust, and trust is necessary for real intimacy
  - You develop the godly qualities of patience & self-control
  - You affirm that you care more for your partner than for yourself
  - You protect both of you from feelings of guilt and shame
  - You provide an example to give your children and others
  - You avoid the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy and STDs
  - You increase the anticipation & enjoyment of your wedding night
  - You maintain a strong witness to the world
  - You protect yourself from emotional, mental, and physical trauma should you break off your relationship
-

## Our Purity Covenant

**Acts 24:16**

“So, I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.”

**Because I respect and honor you, I commit to not place us in a situation which could lead to temptation; to honor your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit; and to maintain my self-control at all times.**

**I pledge to show my love for you in ways that allow both of us to maintain a clear conscience before God and each other.**

On this, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned do promise to keep the vows made in this Purity Covenant.

---

---